

CLAIMS

We claim:

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1. A method of managing software components, said method comprising:
 deploying one or more software components on a plurality of computer
 platforms wherein said components interoperate with each other to
 execute a business application;
 monitoring said components with an Administrator, said Administrator
 functioning independently of said components;
 determining a need to reconfigure one or more said components;
 10 modifying or replacing one or more said components using said Administrator
 in response to said determining;
 wherein said monitoring, said determining, and said modifying are performed without
 reference to said computer platforms and wherein said modifying or replacing
 reconfigures said business application without terminating said business application.
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2. The method of Claim 1, wherein two or more of said plurality of
 computer platforms are geographically separated from each other.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said Administrator comprises a
 central administration program.
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4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said Administrator comprises one or
 more distributed administration programs.
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5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises receiving
 health status messages each containing only changes in said health status since receipt
 of a last health status message.

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6. A computer system for managing software components, comprising computer instructions for:
 deploying one or more software components on a plurality of computer platforms wherein said components interoperate with each other to execute a business application;
 monitoring said components with an Administrator, said Administrator functioning independently of said components;
 determining a need to reconfigure one or more said components;
 modifying or replacing one or more said components using said Administrator in response to said determining;
 wherein said monitoring, said determining, and said modifying are performed without reference to said computer platforms and wherein said modifying or replacing reconfigures said business application without terminating said business application.

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7. The method of Claim 6, wherein two or more of said plurality of computer platforms are geographically separated from each other.

8. The method of Claim 6, wherein said Administrator comprises a central administration program.

9. The method of Claim 6, wherein said Administrator comprises one or more distributed administration programs.

10. The method of Claim 6, wherein said monitoring comprises receiving health status messages each containing only changes in said health status since receipt of a last health status message.

11. A computer readable storage medium, comprising computer instructions for:

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monitoring said components with an Administrator, said Administrator functioning independently of said components;

modifying or replacing one or more said components using said Administrator
in response to said determining;

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12. The method of Claim 11, wherein two or more of said plurality of user platforms are geographically separated from each other.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein said Administrator comprises a
administration program.

14. The method of Claim 11, wherein said Administrator comprises one or distributed administration programs.

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein said monitoring comprises receiving status messages each containing only changes in said health status since receipt of last health status message.

16. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for:

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monitoring said components with an Administrator, said Administrator
functioning independently of said components;
determining a need to reconfigure one or more said components;
modifying or replacing one or more said components using said Administrator
in response to said determining;

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wherein said monitoring, said determining, and said modifying are performed without
reference to said computer platforms and wherein said modifying or replacing
reconfigures said business application without terminating said business application.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein two or more of said plurality of
computer platforms are geographically separated from each other.

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18. The method of Claim 16, wherein said Administrator comprises a
central administration program.

19. The method of Claim 16, wherein said Administrator comprises one or
more distributed administration programs.

20. The method of Claim 16, wherein said monitoring comprises receiving
health status messages each containing only changes in said health status since receipt
of a last health status message.

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